

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

In September of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson spoke of his vision of a future Armenia. He said, "Armenia is to be redeemed . . . So that at last this great people, struggling through night after night of terror, knowing not when they may come out into a time when they can enjoy their rights as free people that they never dreamed they would be able to exercise."

The Armenian people finally have the ability to enjoy the rights that President Wilson hoped they would have so many years ago, and for that we are all thankful.

The nights of terror that President Wilson spoke about, the Armenian genocide, was the first genocide of the 20th century. It was the opening chapter of what was arguably the most violent period of human history. In the decades following this initial genocide, the world witnessed genocidal acts against the Jews and against the Roma in World War II, and subsequently in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in too many wars to list here. Today, the world is witnessing genocide yet again in Darfur.

There is no more important way to commit ourselves to preventing the genocides of the future than to commemorate and never forget the genocides of the past. As such, I would like to note my continuing support for House finally passage of H. Res. 106, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. In my view, it is long past time for the United States to officially recognize the massacre of one and a half million Armenians in early in the 20th century for what it undeniably was: a genocide.

Countries all around the world have adopted similar resolutions to ensure that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people are properly recognized as genocide. Canada, France, Switzerland, Greece, and Poland have passed resolutions affirming the recognition of the Armenian genocide. Properly recognizing the Armenian genocide here in America is essential to ensure that all past genocides are never forgotten and all future atrocities are never permitted. This House must afford the proper recognition to the Armenian genocide. We must do so not only because of our solemn obligation to recognize those that were lost, but also because of our duty to those that can still be saved.

A STUDENT'S THOUGHTFUL ESSAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, every present and former college student knows that writing a solid essay or research paper is not easy.

So, I think it's appropriate to recognize the careful effort displayed by Theresa Snyder in

an essay published last month in the Pueblo Chieftain newspaper.

Ms. Snyder is a student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Her topic is a proposed water-delivery project called the Southern Delivery System, which would pipe water to that city from the Pueblo Reservoir—part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project—with return flows back to the Arkansas River via Fountain Creek.

Because of the complexity of the project, I joined others in asking the Bureau of Reclamation to provide additional time for comment on it—a request that I am happy to say has been granted.

I think Ms. Snyder's essay, written in connection with a class in Western Water Policy, reflects well on her and on the quality of instruction at Colorado College.

For the benefit of all our colleagues, here is the full text of her essay:

[From the Pueblo Chieftain, Mar. 16, 2008]

SPRINGS NEEDS TO CORRECT FOUNTAIN CREEK PROBLEMS

(By Theresa Snyder, Colorado College Student)

First things first . . .

In a time when water is becoming increasingly scarce, Colorado Springs has failed to explore its many options for responsible water use. The Springs, which has experienced rapid population growth in the past 40 years, is expected to grow by an additional 250,000 people by 2025.

To supplement water supply for this urban development, a \$1 billion project known as the Southern Delivery System has been proposed by Colorado Springs Utilities. The project includes storing water in Lake Pueblo and running a 43-mile long pipeline from Pueblo Dam to Colorado Springs.

The city, while possessing all the required water rights to use the additional 78 million gallons a day from Lake Pueblo, currently is completing an Environmental Impact Statement as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Drafts of the statement led the citizens of Pueblo to wonder about their future as downstream water users.

The focus of Pueblo's concern is Fountain Creek. This watershed begins as Monument Creek in Colorado Springs, flows south and joins Fountain Creek, continues to Pueblo and eventually joins the Arkansas River in Pueblo.

The creek has long been used to channel return flow wastewater from Colorado Springs. As a result of the Southern Delivery System, return flows from the city into Fountain Creek would greatly increase.

Anyone who walks along the creek can see the obvious problems with erosion, sedimentation and water quality already present in the creekbed. Current return flows from Colorado Springs have altered this previously intermittent stream to a year-round flow, and are to blame for the multitude of other problems in Fountain Creek.

Increased sedimentation along the creek bed produces stretches of dirt with no trace of vegetation. Other sections of the river have channelized as severely as 20 feet below previous flow lines. The result is a creek that looks sprawled in some areas and like a small canyon with steep, abrupt walls in others.

The Southern Delivery System would only increase average flows and consequently the sedimentation and erosion that results in an unappealing creek with muddy water. Where does all of this poor-quality, heavy-sediment water go? Downstream to Pueblo.

As Colorado Springs Utilities officials prepare to launch a \$1 billion project, they have

failed to address a serious issue that will only worsen upon completion of the project. Clean-up of Fountain Creek should be first on the list of projects to tackle. Colorado Springs brings in the majority of its water from the Western Slope of Colorado. Seventy percent actually comes from Fryingpan-Arkansas water storage projects across the Great Divide. This means fresh, crisp mountain water. Yet the city passes on poor-quality water and disregards the negative effects the flows have on a natural ecosystem and downstream municipality.

Pueblo has begun to speak up and demands that Colorado Springs dam Fountain Creek to control the overall flow of the creek. A dam would control flooding as well as mitigate the negative effects from erosion and sedimentation.

Yet Colorado Springs Utilities has cited cost as the primary reason for not damming the creek. How is cost an object when the utility is prepared to shovel out \$1.1 billion for more water? It seems selfish and unfair of a municipality to not only ignore a problem such as Fountain Creek but to propose a huge project that only worsens the situation.

Colorado Springs is considered the "big bully" in this ongoing water issue. It's time for them to take a step back.

First things first: Colorado Springs officials should address the issues at hand such as Fountain Creek. They should become responsible water users before they gain access to more of the precious commodity.

Though they may have the legal rights to follow through with the Southern Delivery System, it's unfair and irresponsible to ignore the current mess and follow through with a project that brings more detrimental effects.

NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This week increases awareness about the effects of cancer in minority communities and is dedicated to emphasizing the importance of early cancer detection.

Today, minorities are more likely to be diagnosed and die from cancer in comparison to the rest of the United States population. According to the American Cancer Society, African American men have a 37 percent higher cancer death rate than white men, and death rates for African American women are about 17 percent higher than rates for white women, despite the fact that African American women have lower cancer incidence rates than white women.

Disparities in breast cancer for minority women are among the most common. Studies have highlighted that African American women are 1.9 times more likely to be diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer than white women. Hispanic women are 1.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer than white women. It is clear that, although there have been efforts to eliminate disparities in breast cancer related care, substantial disparities remain.